

Interaction of Antifungal Drug with Lipid Membrane: Role of Sterols

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論文內容要旨

Amphotericin B (AmB) is an essential drug to treat systemic fungal infections. In spite that AmB has been used for decades, the molecular mechanism of AmB action at the membrane level is far from being well understood. Since the most significant difference between human and fungal cell membrane is in the sterol present: while cholesterol (Chol) is the major sterol present in human membrane, ergosterol (Ergo) is dominant in fungal membrane; it is widely accepted that antifungal activity of AmB comes from its favored interaction with ergosterol. In addition, a hypothetical "barrel-stave" mode had been suggested: an ion channel formed by 8 AmB and 8 ergosterol molecules. Recently, more evidence for such a mode has been collected by a wide range of methods (Theoretical Study, MD, Abs, FTIR, SPR, FLIM, AFM, etc). Most of these studies are carried out on the assumption that AmB interacts with both two sterols within membrane; and the differences between AmB-Chol and AmB-Ergo interaction are advocated. However, before that, it is also fundamental to consider the differential effects of two sterols on physical properties of membrane, as sterol accounts for more than 30mol% of membrane composition. For instance, sterols can significantly change membrane ordering/packing thus affect drug penetration.

This study confirmed the existence of AmB-ergo complex; then three methods were applied to elucidate the mechanism mainly from a view point of sterol's role on physical properties of membrane. This study suggested important difference between the two sterols which can affect AmB's activity.

Chapter 1 {Introduction}: General knowledge of cell, biological membranes, lipids, lipid bilayer and vesicle, lipid phase and domain (raft) were introduced sequentially. Afterward, chemical and physical characteristics of cholesterol and ergosterol, as well as AmB were introduced in detail.

Chapter 2 {Purpose and Methodology}: Firstly it introduced milestone events and recent progress of related research. Motivation and importance of this study was then explained. The main purpose was to investigate the effects of various cholesterol or ergosterol concentrations on physical properties of lipid membrane. Materials (liposome made of a range of saturated, unsaturated lipids and/or natural lipids) and methods (DSC, detergent insolubility study, and fluorescence probe technique) were then roughly described. Structure and logic of this thesis was also explained.

Chapter 3 {Interaction of Amphotericin B with Lipid Vesicles Containing Cholesterol or Ergosterol}:

By electronic absorption spectroscopy, possible AmB-ergosterol aggregates were detected. This was in line with previous study by other methods. Surprisingly, absorption spectra implied that AmB aggregation states were almost the same in DOPC or DOPC/Chol liposomes. In both cases, it can be speculated that AmB form larger aggregates (absorption: ~326nm) without other molecules involved.

Chapter 4 {Calorimetric Study}: Comparison of thermograms showed that AmB affected ergosterol membrane to a great extent. In contrast, AmB had almost no effect on thermogram of cholesterol liposomes. This suggested that AmB penetrated into ergosterol membrane, while in the case of cholesterol AmB most possibly located on the surface of membrane.

Chapter 5 {Detergent Insolubility Study}: This study suggested that ergosterol liposomes had greater resistance against Triton X-100 in all liposomes. This simply implied higher affinity between ergosterol and phospholipid.

Chapter 6 {Fluorescence Probe Study}: Since chapter 5 did not provide the specific information at

phospholipid glycerol backbone area which directly affects drug penetration, an environment-sensitive dye Laurdan has been used to detect water concentration over there. Based on the fact that Laurdan fluorescence only comes from two components (non-polar: 440nm and polar: 490nm), generalized polarization $(I_{440nm}-I_{490nm}) / (I_{440nm}+I_{490nm})$ was also introduced.

By extending non-polar chain and filling free space, both cholesterol and ergosterol dramatically decreased polarity. Depending on sterol ratios, cholesterol and ergosterol showed stronger or weaker effects on saturated lipids. On the other hand, in liposomes consisting of unsaturated lipids, ergosterol had clearly weaker ability in preventing water penetration. Larger amount of water molecules means larger space in this area, thus easier for AmB molecules to enter into ergosterol membrane. This can be explained by relatively bent conformation of ergosterol.

In conclusion, this study suggested the role of ergosterol in AmB-membrane interaction : 1) Direct: forming complex with AmB in membrane as confirmed by electronic absorption spectroscopy. 2) Indirect: altering packing and ordering of lipid membrane. Different from previous theory, this study suggested that AmB can only enter into ergosterol membrane. Ergosterol has weaker ability in packing head groups of unsaturated lipids which are major component of fungal membrane. The relatively larger space at polar head area of ergosterol membrane probably plays a central role in penetration of amphotericin B.

論文審査の結果の要旨

ペニシリンの発見で人類は細菌の感染症を克服してきたが、真菌の感染症には有効な治療薬はない。末期の癌患者やエイズ患者など免疫機能が低下した患者は、健常人では感染しない真菌に感染し重篤な症状を呈する。このような状況の下で、真菌の感染症に有効なAmphotericinB (AmB) が*S. nodosus*から発見された。ヒトの細胞膜にコレステロール (Cholesterol; Chol) が存在するのに対して真菌にはエルゴステロール (Ergosterol; Ergo) が存在し、この差を利用して真菌に選択的に作用する抗真菌剤としてAmBが注目されている。

リポソーム (脂質膜顆粒) にAmBを混合すると副作用が低減することから、脂質製剤のAmbiosomeが臨床で使用されているが、その作用機構の解明は遅れている。本博士論文申請者のWu Liは、AmBの作用機構を物性物理学の視点から解明することを企図して、細胞膜への結合、細胞膜への侵入、細胞膜内でチャネル形成への再配置の3段階の中で細胞膜への侵入の過程を解明することを目的として研究を行った。この目的を達成するためにErgoとCholの脂質膜に対するAmBの効果の差を、AmBの凝集状態を知ることができる吸収スペクトルの測定、相転移温度が23°Cのリン脂質DMPCの示差走査熱量計 (DSC) 測定、および、脂質膜の極性頭部への水分子浸入を定量化できる蛍光色素のLaurdanを用いた蛍光測定を用いて研究した。

相転移温度が-18°Cであり室温では液晶相にあるリン脂質のDOPCを用いた実験では、Cholを含むDOPCリポソームではAmBの凝集体の吸収ピークを観察したが、Ergoを含むDOPCリポソームでは異なる吸収ピークが現れた。このことからAmBとErgoが相互作用していることが示された。DSCの実験ではDMPC/Chol系のリポソームにAmBを加えてもその転移エンタルピーの大きさは変化しないが、DMPC/Ergo系のリポソームにAmBを加えると転移エンタルピーが大きく減少することがわかった。これは、ErgoとAmBの複合体がDMPC膜に侵入していることを示している。Laurdanをプローブに用いた蛍光測定では、DOPC/Chol系がCholの濃度依存的に極性頭部への水の浸入の抑制を示したのに対して、DOPC/Ergo系ではその効果はCholに比較して小さいことが示された。

これらの実験から、Cholを含むヒトの細胞膜では脂質分子間のパッキングが強く、AmBは膜に侵入しないが、Ergoを含む真菌膜ではパッキングが弱く、AmBとErgoが複合体を作って膜内に侵入しているというモデルをたてた。このモデルは、AmBのリポソーム製剤が真菌感染症に有効となる作用機構に関して重要な知見を示している。

以上の結果は、Wu Liが自立して研究活動を行うに必要な高度の研究能力と学識を有することを示している。したがって、Wu Li提出の博士論文は、博士（理学）の学位論文として合格と認める。